

FOI 319/2015

REQUEST

Please supply details of the address (including the street number and the postcode) of properties in your local authority area that:

- a) have been empty for more than six months (stating how long they have been empty for)
- b) have been empty for under six months
- c) your empty homes strategy including what empty homes (if any) you prioritise.

For Part A and Part B, please state whether it is a privately owned property, a council owned property or a commercial property, or otherwise.

Also, please answer Part A and Part B for the same time in: 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011 and 2010 (in other words, comparing how many long-term empty homes there are now compared to the same date (or roughly the same date) last year, two years ago, five years ago etc).

RESPONSE

We are unable to supply a breakdown of dwellings at today's date prior to current year that have been empty less than six months and six months or over, as all empty dwellings use the same transaction code from the first day they are empty since April 2013.

However, prior to April 2013 when the Class C (six month) exemption was in place we can supply only totals for each group but cannot extract individual accounts. In addition we are unable to supply the addresses for empty homes as we feel this information could be used for criminal activity.

For 2015/16 as at the 09-Jul-2015, I can extract the following information:

- a) have been empty for more than six months (stating how long they have been empty for) = 756 dwellings the longest being empty prior to 1st April 2010
- b) have been empty for under six months = 856 dwellings

For 2014/15 I can extract the following information as at 11-Jul-2014:

- a) There were 1770 empty dwellings.
I am unable at this stage to identify specific periods or ownership details.

For 2013/14 I can extract the following information as at 12-Jul-2013:

- a) There were 1724 empty dwellings.
I am unable at this stage to identify specific periods or ownership details.

For 2012/13 I can extract the following information as at 13-Jul-2012:

- a) There were 910 empty dwellings.
- b) And 1093 dwellings empty under 6 months. (Class C Exemption)
I am unable at this stage to identify specific ownership details.

For 2011/12 I can extract the following information as at 08-Jul-2011:

- a) There were 930 empty dwellings.
 - b) And 987 dwellings empty under 6 months. (Class C Exemption)
- I am unable at this stage to identify specific ownership details.

For 2010/11 I can extract the following information as at 09-Jul-2010:

- a) There were 926 empty dwellings.
 - b) And 964 dwellings empty under 6 months. (Class C Exemption)
- I am unable at this stage to identify specific ownership details.

Our Empty Homes Strategy is currently being re-written. We prioritise those properties that have been empty for longest and are causing the most problems, such as nuisance to neighbours through dilapidated condition or anti-social behaviour in the form of fly tipping etc... Our new strategy will introduce a scoring system that will include factors such as how the property could meet housing need in the district if it were returned to use. We have a need for smaller properties (1 and 2 bed) therefore such dwellings will have an increased priority score.